

2006 MARINER

Wine Enthusiast Magazine – “92 POINTS”

September 2010

Shows the edgy tannins that Dry Creek red wines invariably display, with a sandpapery texture. That makes the wine, which is a Bordeaux blend of five varieties, a little rustic. But the dryness and bite are a nice alternative to the riper, softer Napa style, and more versatile at the table. Good now, and should slowly develop in the bottle for years.”

Wine Spectator Magazine – “92 POINTS”

July 2010

Sleek, tight and focused, harmonious, well-proportioned and complex, offering layers of ripe plum, black cherry, currant, black licorice, mineral and spice. Ends with supple tannins and a flow of dark berry flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2019.

Critic’s Challenge Wine Competition – “BEST BORDEAUX BLEND”

June 2010

This very strong Bordeaux-style blend shows a lot of firmness from oak in the finish, but also impressive depth of fruit that keeps the balance appealing. The tannins are fine-grained and well weighted to the sweet, deeply flavored fruit, making this enjoyable now but also quite promising in terms of potential for future development. Tasting blind, I awarded this a platinum medal at the Critics Challenge International Wine Competition.

2005 MARINER

The Wine News – “90 POINTS”

March/April/May 2009

Dense crimson hue. Inviting scents of black cherry, mocha and rum cake. Velvety tannins and juicy flavors of cassis and blackberry. Hints of sandalwood and leather in the close.

Wine Enthusiast – “87 POINTS”

May 2009

There may be a good wine here, but this Bordeaux blend is still very hard in tannins and acids, giving it a tough, unyielding mouthfeel. Yet there are deep flavors of currants, cassis and mocha. Could develop over the long haul. Try after 2011.

Colorado Wine News

Jan-Mar 2009

Blend of 46% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot, 6% petit verdot, 5% malbec, and 3% cabernet franc. It spent twenty-five months in French oak and has aromas of earth and smoke before cherry preserves, sweet tobacco, and Gwaltney Smithfield ham. All repeat as flavors laced with dry tannin and finish long and medium-broad. Well integrated, structured, and balanced. Very tasty.

2004 MARINER

Wine Enthusiast – “93 POINTS”

March 2008

One of the best Bordeaux-style reds in memory from this warm Sonoma County appellation, this blend of all 5 Bordeaux varieties shows wild berry, plum, olive tapenade, spice and dried herb flavor, with tough, slightly rustic tannins that need time to melt. Give it until 2009, and should provide pleasure for another 5 or 6 years. Cellar Selection.

Wine Spectator – “88 POINTS”

January 31, 2008

Tight, intense and well-structured, with firm dried currant, cedary oak and hints of mocha, sage and loamy earth. Decant. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.

Decanter – “FOUR STARS”

December 2007

A classic, mouthfilling blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this wine is a lovely, complex tapestry of lush fruit, soft tannins and floral aromas.

The Wine News – One of the “Top 10” Proprietary Blends of 2007”

December/January 2007-2008

Embodying the evolution of the winery’s Meritage program, The Mariner is a noble blend of cabernet sauvignon (46%), merlot (40%), malbec (6%), cabernet franc (5%) and petit verdot (3%) from several of the finest vineyards in Dry Creek Valley. Appealing aromas of mocha, light vanilla, black cherry-raspberry and wilted roses. Ultrasmooth with medium tannins, the flavors are rich, succulent and nicely concentrated, melding black cherry-cassis fruit, mocha and subtle white pepper. An elegant, stylish wine with a subtle, peppery finish.

California Grapevine – “Highly Recommended”

December/January 2007-2008

Medium-dark ruby; initially subdued, tight, herbal, dark berry fruit aroma with notes of vanilla and black pepper; medium-full to full body; tight, herbal, cedary, toasty, black cherry fruit flavors; full tannin; slightly tart on the finish; lingering aftertaste.

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine – “88 POINTS”

December 2007

Starting out with a big flourish of ripe briar-tinged fruit and lots of rich oak in the nose, this mouth-filling effort follows up with similarly rich flavors that are underlain by ample tannins.

Oliver’s Tasting Time

By Renay Santero

November 2007

Love it! They did an excellent job on this meritage. Robust dark fruit with cherry, dark chocolate and dovetailed tannins. They caught the quality in their sails with this one and translated it into a graceful glide of a red. I bet it could age a decade, but not in my house.

Wilfred Wong, Beverages & More – “92 POINTS”

October 2007

Deep ruby color; attractive and alluring aromas of ripe boysenberries, youthful and fine, excellent depth of fruit; medium bodied, nicely textured; excellent structure, medium tannins; dry, medium acidity, fine balance; attractive black fruit flavors, youthful and still just a bit closed-in, excellent concentration of fruit; medium finish, perky aftertaste.

Winereviewonline.com – “89 POINTS”

October 23, 2007

From the first vintage at Dry Creek Vineyard in 1972, under the guidance of founder Dave Stare, the wines have featured a nautical motif. Now, to celebrate Dry Creek's 35th Anniversary, the Sonoma County winery has released The Mariner, a Meritage blend of the five Bordeaux red varieties, based mainly on Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It has a very deep purple-ruby color and warm choco-berry aroma. Aged for 25 months in French oak, the flavors are closed-in with subtle herbal-earthly accents and big tannins. It's a little tight now, but this nicely structured wine should open and expand with a few more years in bottle.

Quarterly Review of Wines

Autumn 2007

This wine shows breed and finesse from beginning to end. Floral and toasty aromas introduce black raspberry, dark cherry, brown spice, plum and integrated oak that unite to form a seamless whole – accessible now yet ageable.